

Attorney's Docket No. 1232-4522
Serial No. 09/266,253
Reply to the outstanding Office Action mailed Sep. 25, 2003

REMARKS

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1, 13, 19, 20, 31, 35, 50 and 51 are amended. Claims 36-49 and 52-53 are canceled. Claims 1-35, 50 and 51 are pending in the application. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Entry and consideration of the Amendment are respectfully requested.

Response to Objection to Claim

In the Office Action, claim 16 is objected to for minor informalities. Specifically, the Examiner states that "the claim recites the reference character "15" for the image sensing apparatus as a limitation." Accordingly, Applicants have amended the claim by removing the reference character "15." Thus, the objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Response to Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 9, 15-22, 33-35, and 50-51 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,136,320, hereafter Kobayashi) in view of Prentice et al. (U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0030729, hereafter Prentice). Claims 4-6, 10-11, 23-25, and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Prentice and further in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 5,210,567, hereafter Takahashi). Claims 7-8, 12-14, 26, 30-32, 36-49 and 52-53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi in view of Prentice and further in view of Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,344,875, hereafter Hashimoto). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections for the following reasons.

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The present invention, as recited in amended claims 1, 13, 19, 20, 31, 35, 50 and 51 are directed to an apparatus and a method that is in an external control state in which an apparatus is controlled by an external controller unit or said apparatus is in an image sensing state in which the apparatus is controlled independent of the external controller unit, individually, and that determines an operation of said driving device in accordance with a judgment result of said determination device.

Kabayashi discloses that a movement of a lens barrel 27 is controlled between a retracting position and macro position, and the lens barrel is moved in accordance with a selected mode by a main switch 30.

Prentice teaches that an external computer controls image sensing of a camera when the camera is connected to the computer.

However, neither Kabayashi nor Prentice teach or suggest the judgment at least whether the image sensing apparatus (or camera) is in the external control state in which the image sensing apparatus is controlled by the external controller unit or the apparatus is in the image sensing state (or photographing state) in which the apparatus is controlled independent of the external controller unit, individually, and also the determination of the operation of the driving device in accordance with the judgement result.

Moreover, Takahashi and Hashimoto do not appear to overcome the deficiencies noted above in Kobayashi in view of Prentice to render obvious the claims of the present invention.

Accordingly, all pending claims 1-35, 50 and 51 are believed to be distinguishable over Kobayashi, Prentice, Takahashi and Hashimoto, either in combination or individually.

Attorney's Docket No. 1232-4522

Serial No. 09/266,253

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejections have been properly traversed accommodated or rendered moot. Thus, Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Attorney's Docket No. 1232-4522

Serial No. 09/266,253

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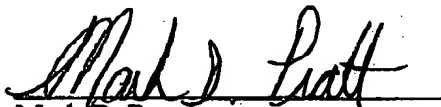
AUTHORIZATIONS

This paper is timely filed, thus no fee is due by the filing. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4522. Likewise, any overpayment is credited to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1232-4522.

Respectfully submitted,
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